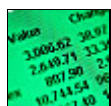


1345.4 - SA Stats, Dec 2006

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 19/12/2006

Summary

Overview



In this issue of SA Stats

19/12/2006 | This is a quarterly data release and represents an overview of a number of economic, social and environment statistics. The topics covered include demography, state accounts, consumption, investment, production, prices, labour force, incomes, housing finance, and environment.



Demography

Includes: **Estimated Resident Population**

19/12/2006 | The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,554,700 at 30 June 2006, an increase of 12,600 persons (0.8%) since 30 June 2005, which was slightly higher than that recorded for the year ended 30 June 2005 (0.6%).



State Accounts

Includes: **State Final Demand, Household Final Consumption Expenditure**

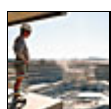
19/12/2006 | South Australia's September 2006 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$16,607m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$242,997m.



Consumption

Includes: **Retail Turnover, New Motor Vehicle Sales**

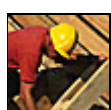
19/12/2006 | The October 2006 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,321.6m, compared with the Australian total of \$18,329.4m.



Investment

Includes: **Private New Capital Expenditure, Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure**

19/12/2006 | In the September 2006 quarter, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure increased by 1.5% to \$1,195m.



Production

Includes: **Building Approvals**

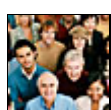
19/12/2006 | For each of the months between May 2006 and October 2006 the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved in South Australia has fallen, from 944 to 800 (a decrease of 15.3%).



Prices

Includes: **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

19/12/2006 | The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 3.8% in the 12 months to September 2006, compared with a 3.9% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities.



Labour Force

Includes: **Job Vacancies, Employed persons, Unemployment**

19/12/2006 | In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 9,000 in August 2006 from 10,800 in May 2006. There was a slight increase from a year earlier when there were 8,800 vacancies.



Incomes

Includes: **Average Weekly Earnings**

19/12/2006 | The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons

in South Australia has increased by 5.6% in the 12 months to August 2006 reaching \$993.80. Nationally, the corresponding increase was smaller (for the same period) at 3.1% (up to \$1,051.30).



International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

19/12/2006 | The value of South Australian merchandise exports (in original terms) was \$770m in October 2006, up from \$731m in September 2006, and \$687m in October 2005. The value of merchandise imports increased to \$552m in October 2006 from \$528m in September 2006 and \$510m in October 2005.



Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing Finance Commitments**

19/12/2006 | The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia has risen by 20.8% to \$932m in the 12 months to October 2006. Nationally, for the same period, the increase was smaller at 10.0% (to a total of \$13,783m).

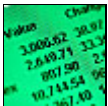


Environment

Includes: **Rainfall in South Australia, South Australian Reservoirs, Water Consumption**

19/12/2006 | The main sources of water for South Australian households and businesses are local reservoirs (usually providing about 50%), the River Murray (normally providing just under one half) and groundwater (providing under 10%) ([SA WATER, Annual Report 2004-05](#)).

In this Issue of SA Stats



IN THIS ISSUE OF SA STATS

This issue of SA Stats is a quarterly data release and represents an overview of a number of economic, social and environment statistics. The topics covered include demography, state accounts, consumption, investment, production, prices, labour force, incomes, housing finance, and environment.

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian economy. The overview will be updated on a quarterly basis (in March, June, September and December) and in the intervening months the publication will include feature articles that provide a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary table).

If you have any comments about this product please contact Lisa Moutzouris on ph: (08) 8237 7455 or alternatively email <lisa.moutzouris@abs.gov.au>.

Articles

ARTICLES

Rainfall in South Australia, South Australian Reservoirs, Water Consumption

Index of Articles published in SA Stats

Demography



DEMOGRAPHY

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,554,700 at 30 June 2006, an increase of 12,600 persons (0.8%) since 30 June 2005, which was slightly higher than that recorded for the year ended 30 June 2005 (0.6%).

All states and territories recorded positive population growth over the 12 months ended 30 June 2006. Western Australia recorded the largest growth rate (2.0%) and Tasmania recorded the lowest growth rate (0.7%). South Australia's population growth rate over this period (0.8%) was its largest since 1991 (1.0%).

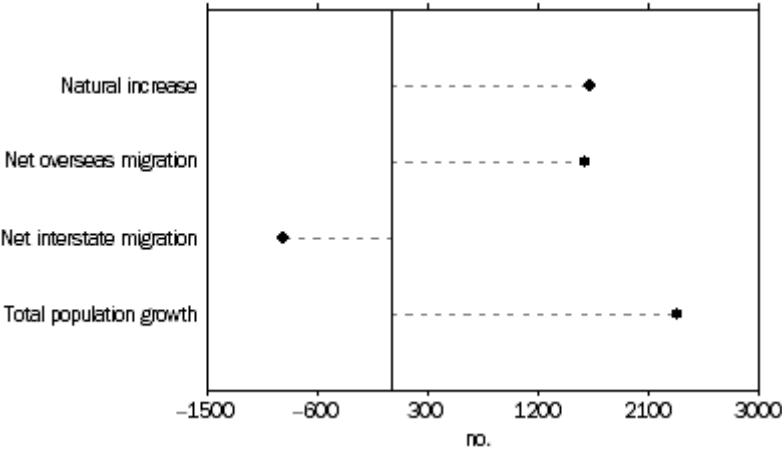
For the year ended 30 June 2006, South Australia recorded 18,100 births and 12,000 deaths. Net overseas migration was a gain of 9,500 persons which was the fifth consecutive financial year of growth and net interstate migration was a loss of 2,900.

In the June 2006 quarter South Australia recorded 4,600 births and 3,000 deaths and a gain in net overseas migration of 1,600 persons, whereas the net interstate migration resulted in a loss of 900.

Nationally, the preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) was 20,605,500 at 30 June 2006, an increase of 265,700 persons (1.3%) since 30 June 2005. The population growth rate for the year ended 30 June 2006 (1.3%) was slightly higher than that recorded for the year ended 30 June 2005 (1.2%). For the year ended 30 June 2006, Australia recorded 264,300 births and 133,100 deaths; the net overseas migration was a gain of 134,600 people.

In the June 2006 quarter Australia recorded 68,000 births and 32,200 deaths. The net overseas migration for Australia was a gain of 17,800 persons.

POPULATION CHANGE, COMPONENTS, June 2006 Quarter, South Australia



Source: [Australian Demographic Statistics \(cat. no. 3101.0\)](#)

State Accounts



STATE ACCOUNTS

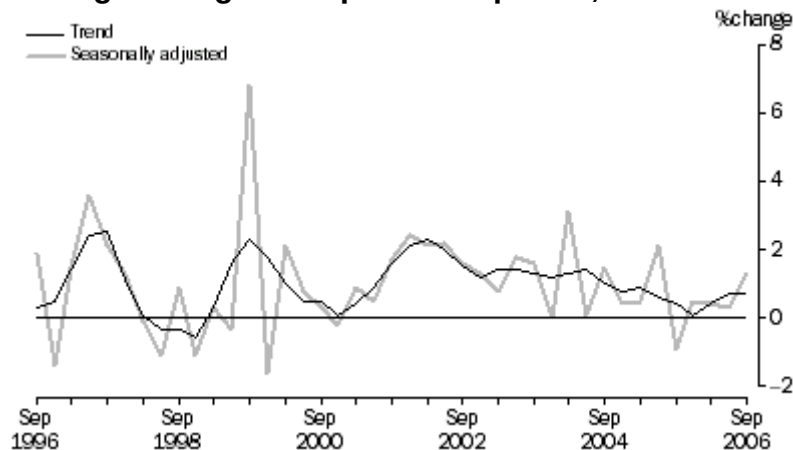
South Australia's September 2006 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$16,607m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$242,997m.

The 0.7% increase in South Australia's State Final Demand recorded for the September 2006 quarter was similar to the increase in national Domestic Final Demand (0.6%).

Of the other states and territories the strongest growth for the quarter was reported in Queensland (up 1.9%) and the Northern Territory (up 1.5%). State Final Demand in Tasmania, however, fell 0.9% for the quarter.

In the September 1996 quarter South Australian State Final Demand comprised 7.1% of Australian Domestic Final Demand; by the September 2006 quarter, the proportion had declined to 6.8%. The proportional contribution to the Australian Domestic Final Demand of New South Wales and Tasmania also decreased over this time period while that of the other states and territories increased.

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter, South Australia



Source: [Australian National Accounts \(cat. no. 5206.0\)](#)

HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's September 2006 quarter HFCE was \$9,745m (7.2% of the national total of \$136,096m). This represented an 0.7% increase from the June 2006 quarter for both South Australia and Australia.

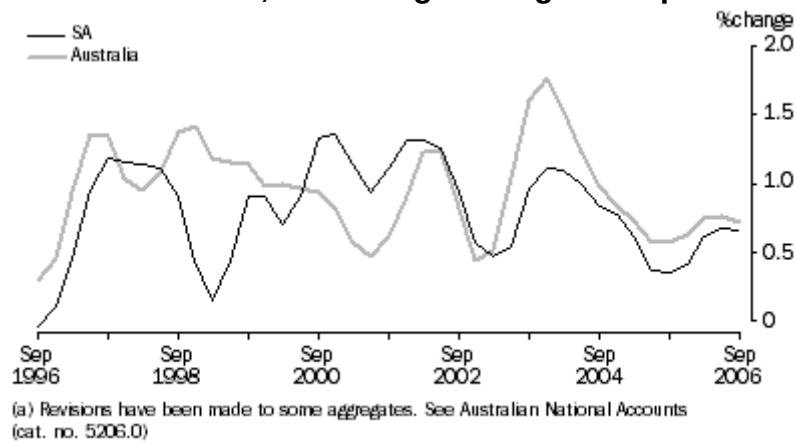
The expenditure components which showed the largest increases for South Australia when comparing September 2006 and September 2005 quarters were: Electricity, gas and other fuel (up 10.2 % to \$301m); and Recreation and culture (up 4.8% to \$1,197m). For this same

comparison, the main Australian expenditure component increases were seen in: Electricity, gas and other fuel (up by 5.7% to \$2,804m); and Furnishings and household equipment (up 5.6% to \$7,907m). Decreases in expenditure on Cigarettes and tobacco were recorded for both South Australia (a 9.7% decrease to \$177m) and Australia (an 8.0% decrease to \$2,313m).

For South Australia, Electricity, gas and other fuel (up 2.0%) recorded the greatest increase in expenditure in the September 2006 quarter, followed by Furnishings and household equipment (up 1.9%). For the same period, the greatest increases for Australia were in Furnishings and household equipment (up 1.7%); and Transport services (up 1.5%). Expenditure for the quarter on Cigarettes and tobacco recorded the greatest decrease both for South Australia (down 1.7%) and Australia (down 1.0%).

Comparing September 2006 with September 1996, HFCE has increased 39.2% for South Australia and 46.8% for Australia.

HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE(a), Trend, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Australian National Accounts \(cat. no. 5206.0\)](#)

Consumption

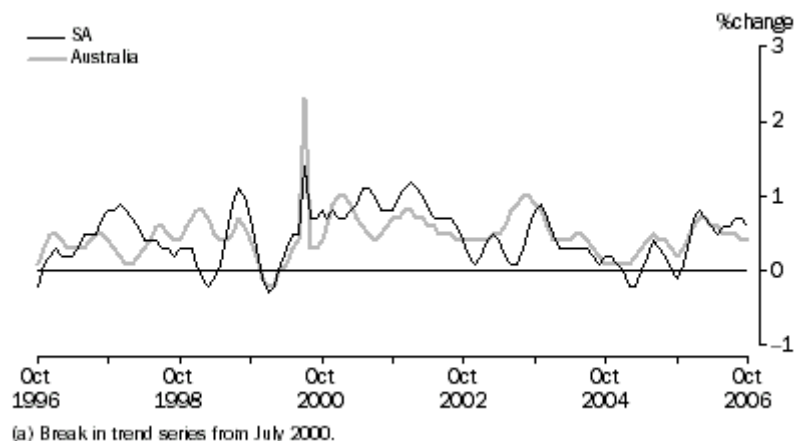


CONSUMPTION

RETAIL TURNOVER

The October 2006 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,321.6m, compared with the Australian total of \$18,329.4m.

RETAIL TURNOVER(a), Current prices, Trend, Percentage change from previous month

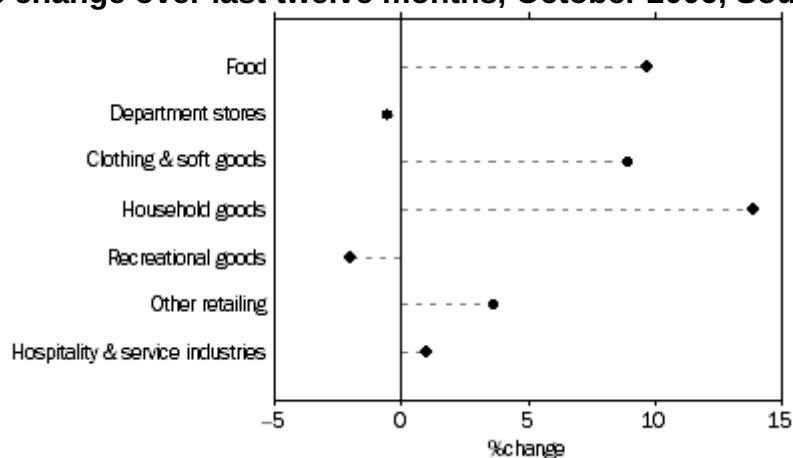


Source: [Retail Trade, Australia \(cat. no. 8501.0\)](#)

Comparing October 2006 with October 2005, retail turnover (trend) has increased by 7.1% for South Australia and 6.4% for Australia.

Over the same period, the two South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage increases in retail turnover (trend) were in Household goods rising to \$190.4m (13.9%) and Food rising to \$584.3m (9.7%). The South Australian industry group which reported the largest decrease in retail turnover (trend) was Recreational goods retailing down by 2.0% to \$39.1m.

RETAIL TURNOVER BY INDUSTRY GROUP, Current prices, Trend, Percentage change over last twelve months, October 2006, South Australia

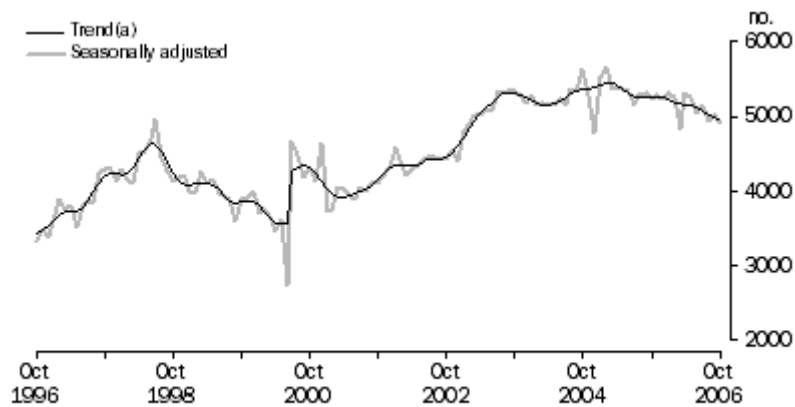


Source: [Retail Trade, Australia \(cat. no. 8501.0\)](#)

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In October 2006, 3,201 new passenger vehicles and 4,927 vehicles in total (in trend terms) were sold in South Australia. Corresponding sales for Australia were 50,660 and 81,145.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, South Australia



(a) Break in trend series between June 2000 & July 2000 with introduction of the New Tax System

Source: [Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Electronic Delivery, Oct 2006](#) (cat. no. 9314.0.55.001)

Investment



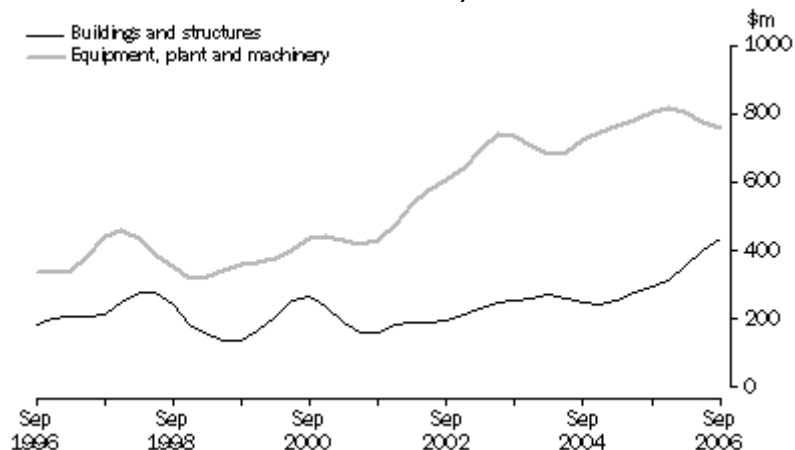
INVESTMENT

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

In the September 2006 quarter, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure increased by 1.5% to \$1,195m. Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 2.6% to \$757m, while expenditure on buildings and structures increased by 9.5% to \$438m. For the same period, private new capital expenditure for Australia decreased by 1.1% to \$18,383m.

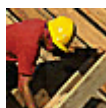
Comparing September 2006 quarter with September 2005 quarter, South Australia's total private new capital expenditure increased by 8.8%. Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery fell by 6.1%; expenditure on buildings and structures grew by 49.5%. Nationally, total private new capital expenditure increased by 10.4%.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Trend, Chain volume measures, South Australia



Source: [Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5625.0)

Production

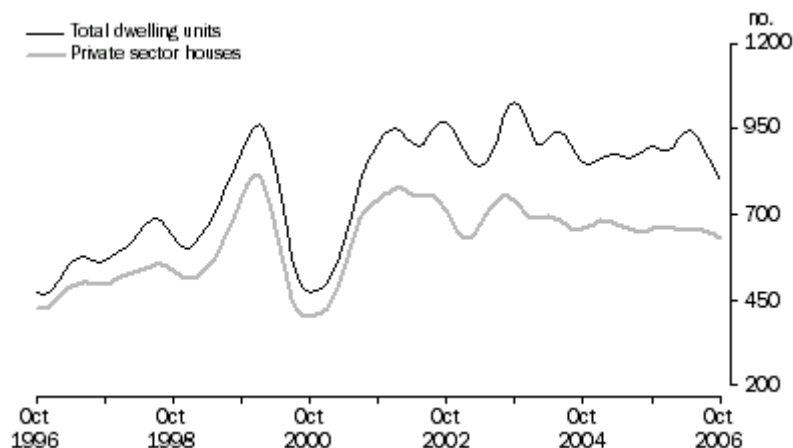


PRODUCTION

BUILDING APPROVALS

For each of the months between May 2006 and October 2006 the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved in South Australia has fallen, from 944 to 800 (a decrease of 15.3%). For the corresponding period the total number (in trend terms) of Australian dwelling units approved has risen by 0.2% from 12,785 to 12,812. The trend estimate for South Australian private sector house approvals has fallen for each of the last four months to 633 in October 2006.

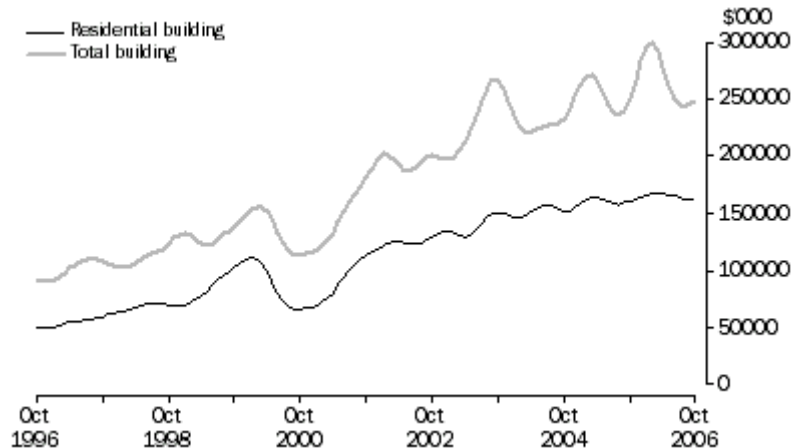
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Building Approvals, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8731.0)

In October 2006, the total value (in trend terms) of building approvals was \$247.6m for South Australia and \$5,261.8m for Australia.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Building Approvals, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8731.0)

Prices

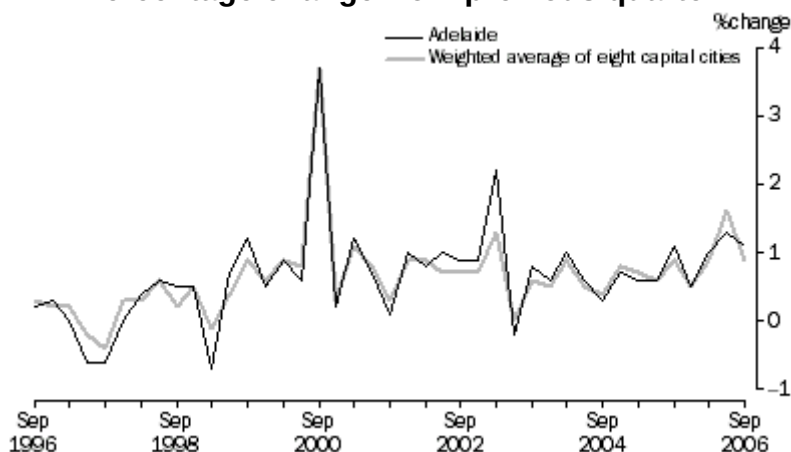


PRICES

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 3.8% in the 12 months to September 2006, compared with a 3.9% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities.

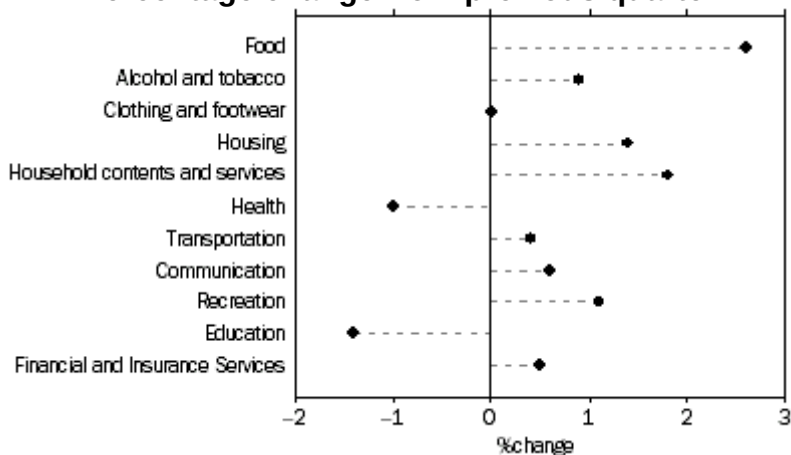
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Original, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Consumer Price Index, Australia \(cat. no. 6401.0\)](#)

In the September 2006 quarter, the categories with the largest percentage increases (contributing to the overall CPI movement for Adelaide) were Food (2.6%); Household Contents and Services (1.8%); and Housing (1.4%).

CPI MOVEMENT, ADELAIDE, Original - SEPTEMBER 2006 QUARTER, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Consumer Price Index, Australia \(cat. no. 6401.0\)](#)

Labour Force

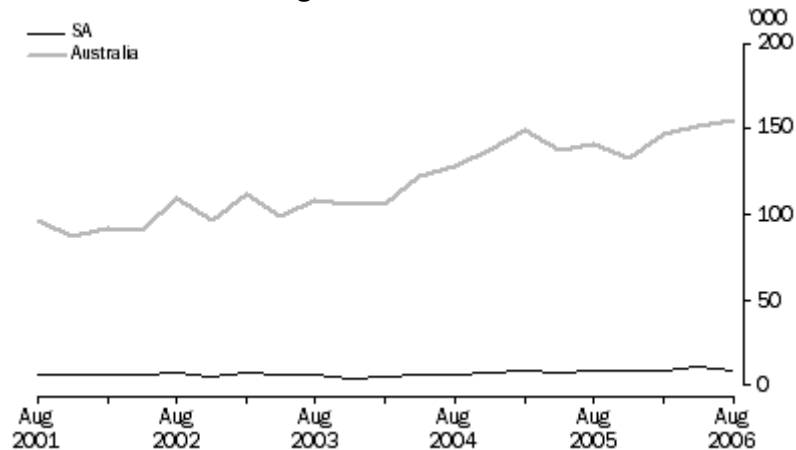


LABOUR FORCE

JOB VACANCIES

In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 9,000 in August 2006 from 10,800 in May 2006. There was a slight increase from a year earlier when there were 8,800 vacancies.

JOB VACANCIES, Original, South Australia and Australia

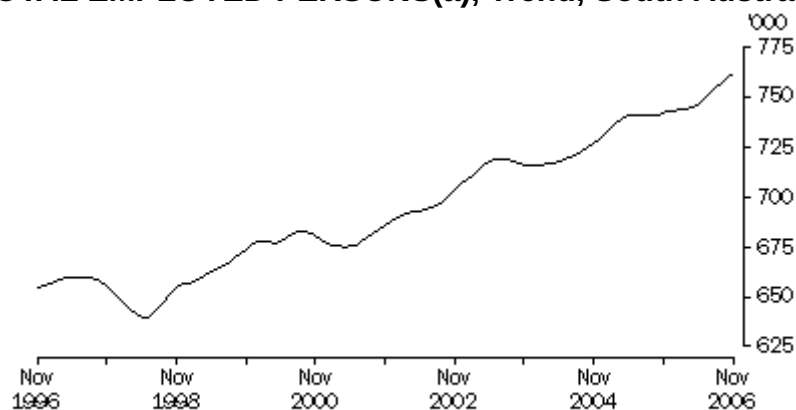


Source: [Job Vacancies, Australia \(cat. no. 6354.0\)](#)

EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, total employment in South Australia continues to rise, reaching a record high of about 762,100 persons in November 2006. Similarly, Australia recorded a series high of about 10,289,400 persons.

TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), Trend, South Australia



(a) Series break at April 2001

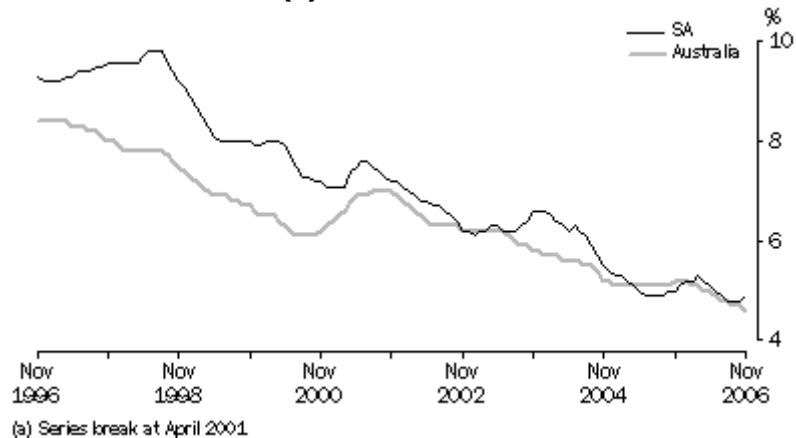
Source: [Labour Force, Australia \(cat. no. 6202.0\)](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for South Australia rose in November 2006 to 4.9% after falling since March 2006. Conversely, Australia's unemployment rate continues to fall recording a rate in November 2006 of 4.6%.

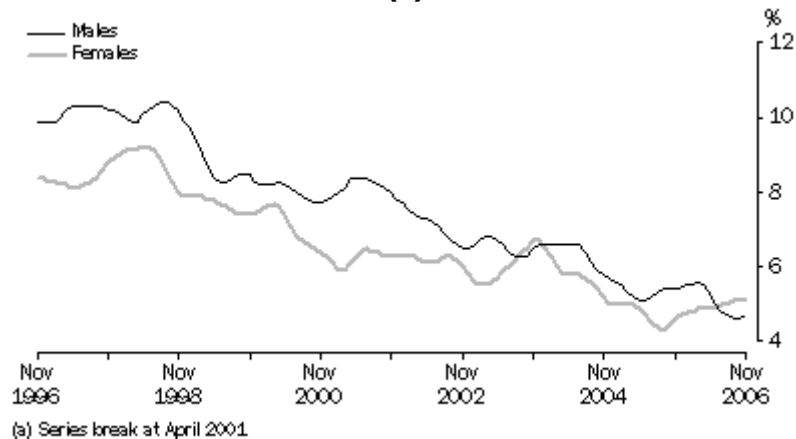
Since November 2003 the trend unemployment rate for South Australia has fallen from 6.6% to 4.9%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia and Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

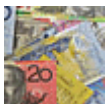
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend unemployment rate for females has risen, up from 4.6% in November 2005 to 5.1% in November 2006. In contrast, the unemployment rate for males has fallen, down from 5.4% in November 2005 to 4.7% in November 2006.

Incomes



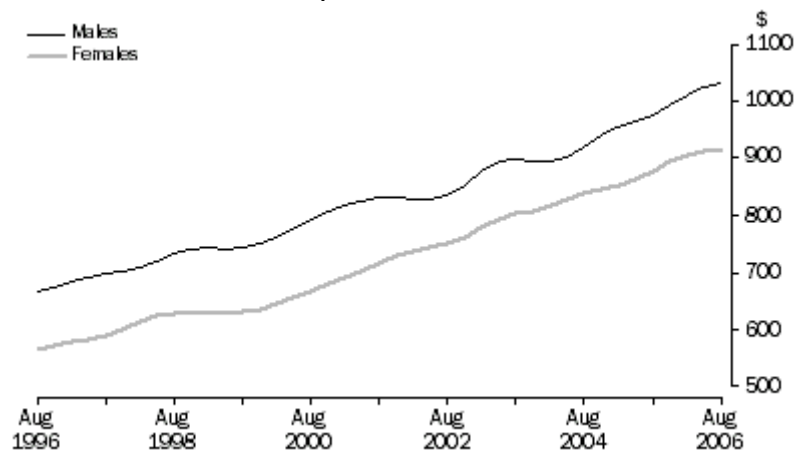
INCOMES

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia has increased by 5.6% in the 12 months to August 2006 reaching \$993.80. Nationally, the corresponding increase was smaller (for the same period) at 3.1% (up to

\$1,051.30).

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY, Trend, South Australia



Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)

For South Australia, the trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time, full-time adult) earnings has risen by 5.9% for males and 4.1% for females over the 12 months to August 2006.

The female average weekly earnings (\$913.60) in South Australia comprises 88.4% of the corresponding male average weekly earnings (\$1,033.60), compared with 89.9% observed a year earlier (August 2005).

International Merchandise Trade

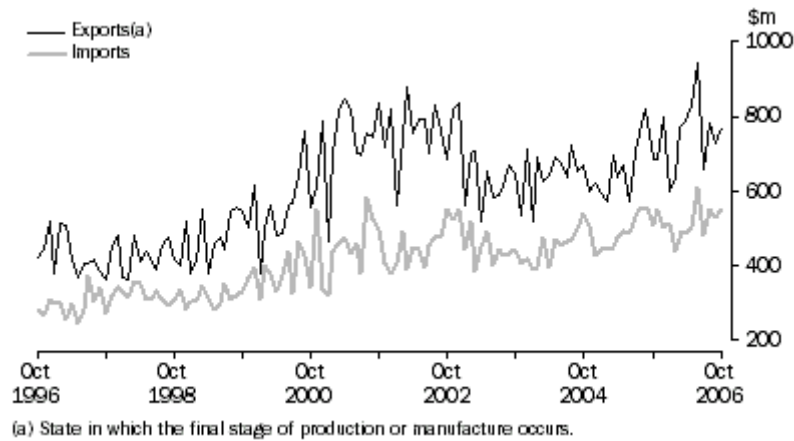


INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

The value of South Australian merchandise exports (in original terms) was \$770m in October 2006, up from \$731m in September 2006, and \$687m in October 2005. The value of merchandise imports increased to \$552m in October 2006 from \$528m in September 2006 and \$510m in October 2005.

For all periods from July 1996 the value of exports from South Australia has exceeded the value of imports. Nationally, for the same period, in most months, the value of imports has exceeded the value of exports.

VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, Original, South Australia



Source: [International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5368.0)

Housing Finance

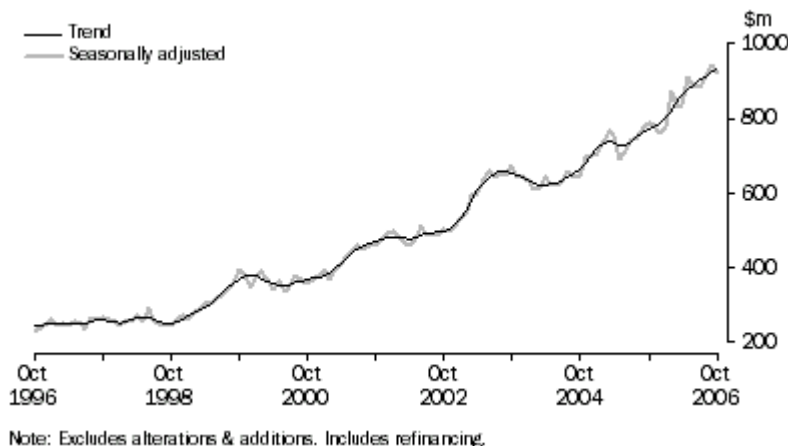


HOUSING FINANCE

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia has risen by 20.8% to \$932m in the 12 months to October 2006. Nationally, for the same period, the increase was smaller at 10.0% (to a total of \$13,783m).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), South Australia



Source: [Housing Finance, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5609.0)

Since October 1996, the average home loan commitment for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia has more than doubled to \$177,800 in October 2006. Over the last decade, there has been little difference between the average loan size for first home buyers and for non-first home buyers in South Australia.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), Original,

Average Loan Size by Type of Buyer, South Australia



Source: [Housing Finance, Australia \(cat. no. 5609.0\)](#)

Environment



ENVIRONMENT

WATER IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

During spring and early summer, water and rainfall is frequently discussed in the media in South Australia.

The main sources of water for South Australian households and businesses are local reservoirs (usually providing about 50%), the River Murray (normally providing just under one half) and groundwater (providing under 10%) ([SA WATER, Annual Report 2004-05](#)). Given that more than half of the water provided to South Australian households and businesses is from reservoirs, rainfall is of critical interest. In the Mt Lofty Ranges catchment areas of South Australia's main reservoirs, the winter (June, July and August) of 2006 was the driest on record, and the first 2 months of spring (September and October) were the driest since 1914 ([Bureau of Meteorology, Archive of SA and Adelaide Monthly Climate Summaries](#)). As at 30 November 2006, the main reservoirs were about 42% below capacity ([SA WATER, Reservoir levels](#)).

South Australian pastoral districts and agricultural districts are mainly reliant on rainfall for their water needs. During the winter and early spring of 2006, these districts generally experienced below to very much below average rainfalls ([Bureau of Meteorology, Archive of SA and Adelaide Monthly Climate Summaries](#)). The southern and south-eastern parts of the agricultural districts and the Eyre Peninsula were particularly affected by the dry conditions.

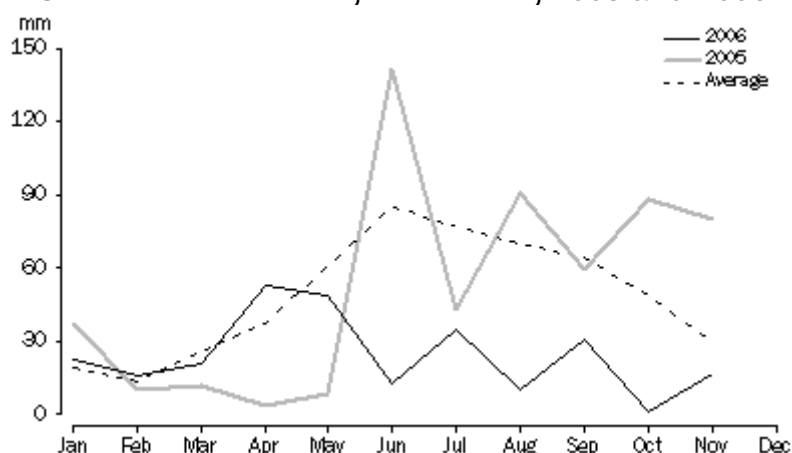
RAINFALL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Bureau of Meteorology described South Australia's 2006 spring weather (September, October and November) as 'extremely dry' with rainfall 'significantly below average'. Winter was described as 'very dry' with winter rainfall 'very much below average' over the Agricultural areas. In autumn (March, April and May) much of the State experienced 'average to below average' rainfall.

RAINFALL IN ADELAIDE

Adelaide commenced 2006 with above average rainfall for the summer months (January and February) and autumn season. However, Adelaide's 2006 winter was the driest on record. Other features of Adelaide's 2006 rainfall are summarised in Table 1.

GRAPH 1. RAINFALL, ADELAIDE, 2005 and 2006



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, Archive of SA and Adelaide Monthly Climate Summaries](#)

TABLE 1. FEATURES OF ADELAIDE'S RAINFALL, 2005 AND 2006

MONTH	2005 RAINFALL	2006 RAINFALL	AVERAGE RAINFALL	COMMENT FOR 2006
January	37.0	22.4	19.2	
February	10.4	15.6	13.6	
March	11.6	20.2	25.7	
April	3.2	52.4	37.5	Wettest April since 1998
May	8.2	48.8	60.7	
June	141.8	12.4	85.2	Driest since 1967
July	42.8	34.2	76.5	June/July period is second driest on record
August	90.8	10.2	69.8	Third driest on record
September	59.2	31.0	64.0	Driest June to September period since 1914
October	88.4	1.0	48.5	Equal driest on record
November	79.6	16.6	32.5	Driest November since 2003
SEASON				
Summer	79.4	94.4	60.3	Wettest summer since 2002/03
Autumn	23.0	121.4	123.9	Wettest autumn since 2001
Winter	275.4	58.6	231.5	Driest on record
Spring	227.2	50.2	145.1	Driest first two months since 1914

Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, Archive of SA and Adelaide Monthly Climate Summaries](#)

RAINFALL IN PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

As with the Adelaide metropolitan area, the South Australian pastoral and agricultural districts suffered below average rainfall deficiencies during winter and spring of 2006. Table 2 summarises the 2006 monthly rainfall statistics for these areas.

TABLE 2. RAINFALL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS, JANUARY 2006 TO NOVEMBER 2006

MONTH	SA PASTORAL DISTRICTS	SA AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS
January	Average to above average	Average to above average
February	Ranged from above to near average	Ranged from very much above to near average
March	Ranged from average to below average	Ranged from above average to very much above average
April	Average to above average	Average to above average
May	Ranged from below to very much below average	Below average
June	Below to very much below average	Below to very much below average
July	Above to very much above average	Below to very much below average
August	Below to very much below average	Mostly very much below average
September	Below to very much below average	Below to very much below average. Much of Eyre Peninsula recorded 'lowest on record rainfall'
October	Average to below average	Ranged from below to very much below average
November	Ranged from near average to very much below average	Ranged from average to very much below average

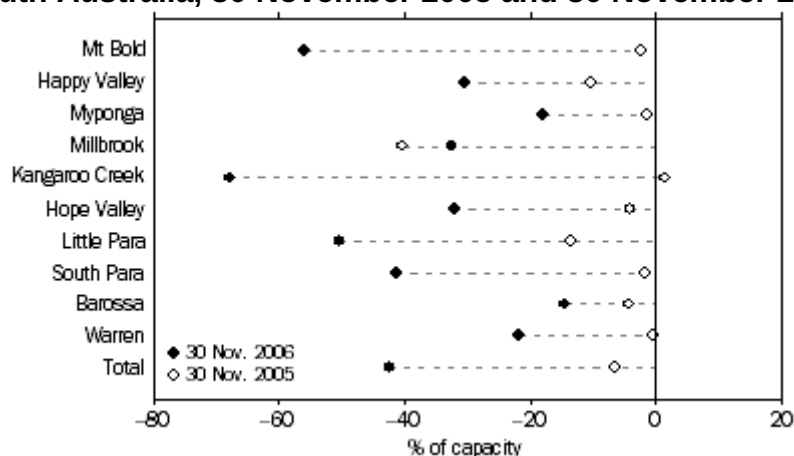
Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, Archive of SA and Adelaide Monthly Climate Summaries](#)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESERVOIRS

RESERVOIR LEVELS

The 113.6 gigalitres (GL) of water held in South Australia's main reservoirs at 30 November 2006 was well below (by about 42%) their combined capacity of 197.4 GL. The two largest reservoirs, Mt Bold and South Para, were at 44% and 59% capacity, while Kangaroo Creek was at 32% capacity. At the same time in 2005, South Australia's main reservoirs were only 6% below capacity.

GRAPH 2. RESERVOIR LEVELS AS A PROPORTION BELOW CAPACITY, South Australia, 30 November 2005 and 30 November 2006

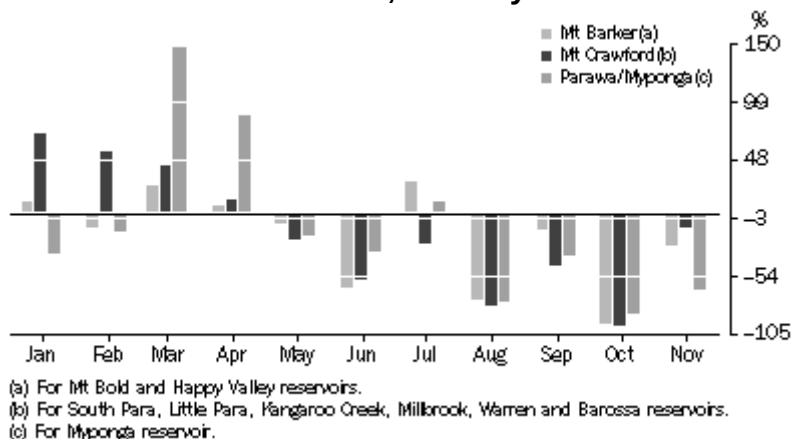


Source: [SA WATER, Reservoir levels](#)

The main South Australian reservoirs supplying water to Adelaide are within the Mount Lofty Ranges region and the weather stations closest to the reservoirs are the Mt Crawford, Mt Barker and Parawa/Myponga weather stations. Rainfalls in the first four months of 2006 were generally above average. From May to November, 2006 monthly rainfalls recorded at these weather stations were generally below average, particularly for the months of August and October (Graph 3). When the entire period January 2006 to November 2006 (inclusive) is considered, all of these stations recorded below-average rainfall totals for the eleven

month period; for Mt Barker the total rainfall was 72% of the average for this period, Mt Crawford was 65% and Parawa/Myponga was 78%.

**GRAPH 3. DEVIATION FROM AVERAGE MONTHLY RAINFALL,
Main reservoir catchment areas, January 2006 to November 2006**



Source: [Bureau of Meteorology, Daily Weather Observations for South Australia](#) and [Bureau of Meteorology, Climate Averages for Australian Sites - Averages for South Australian Sites](#)

WATER CONSUMPTION

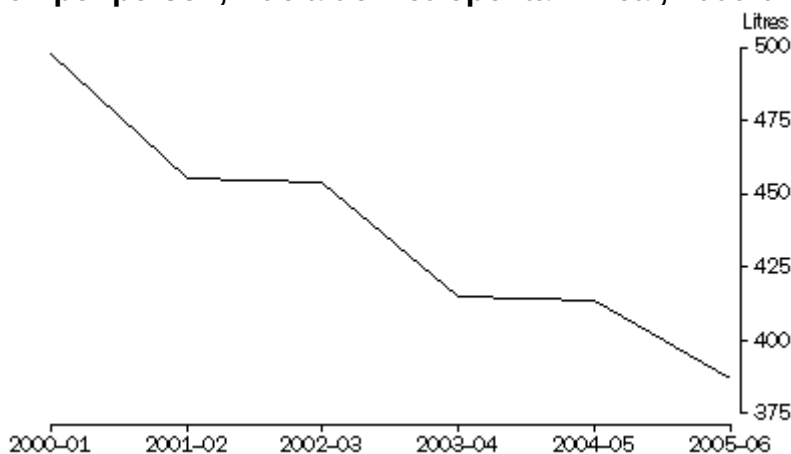
DAILY WATER CONSUMPTION

The average water consumption in the Adelaide metropolitan area for November 2006 was 513 megalitres (ML) per day, which was 22% greater than for November 2005 (421 ML/day). The daily average water consumption for November is 506 ML/day. The total water consumption from July 2006 to November 2006 was 62,931 ML (or 411ML/day) compared with 51,532 ML (337ML/day) for the same period in 2005-06.

Source: [SA WATER, Reservoir levels](#)

Graph 4 shows the average daily water consumption per person in the Adelaide Metropolitan area decreasing. Water restrictions were introduced in 2003-04.

**GRAPH 4. AVERAGE DAILY WATER CONSUMPTION,
Consumption per person, Adelaide Metropolitan Area , 2000-01 to 2005-06**



Source: [SA WATER, Annual Reports, Operations Overview](#)

About this Release

An economic summary for South Australia is provided each quarter in the form of graphs and explanatory text. In the second and third months of each quarter one or more articles examine an area of specific interest to South Australia.

Replaces: 1307.4

Health of South Australians - Health-Related Actions

HEALTH OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS - HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS

This article presents data from the latest National Health Survey (NHS), as conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from August 2004 to June 2005. Similar surveys were conducted in 1977-78, 1983, 1989-90, 1995 and 2001.

This article focuses on the health-related actions of people living in South Australia (SA) in 2004-05. A [Health of South Australians - Health Status](#) article on the population's health status was presented in SA Stats, May 2006 and a [Health of South Australians - Health Risk Behaviours](#) article on factors that may impact on the population's health was presented in SA Stats, August 2006. A future article will provide further details of the population's body mass index (BMI). In these articles, South Australian estimates are compared with those for Australia, the other states of Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Separate estimates for the Northern Territory are not available but the data are included in (the aggregate) estimates for Australia.

In the 2004-05 NHS, data were collected from people living in private dwellings in urban and rural areas of Australia; excluded were people in hospitals, nursing homes and other non-private dwellings. Of all the states and territories, SA had the oldest population in scope of the survey with just over 14% of the population aged 65 years and over, followed by Tasmania at just under 14%. By comparison, 12% of Australia's population in scope of the survey was aged 65 years and over. The older age structures in SA and Tasmania may impact on the health estimates for their populations.

For the 2001 survey, some published data (comparing the states and the ACT) were age standardised. The estimates were adjusted to account for differences in age structures of populations and to enable 'real' comparisons of health characteristics. However, results published from the 2004-05 NHS have not been age standardised. To maintain consistency and comparability, original (non-standardised) data from the 2001 survey (which differ from published age-standardised data) have been used in this article.

Further information on the latest NHS can be obtained from the publication 'National Health Survey, Summary of Results, Australia, 2004-05' (cat. no. 4364.0) and the Microsoft Excel tables in 'National Health Survey, Summary of Results: State Tables, 2004-05' (cat. no. 4362.0).

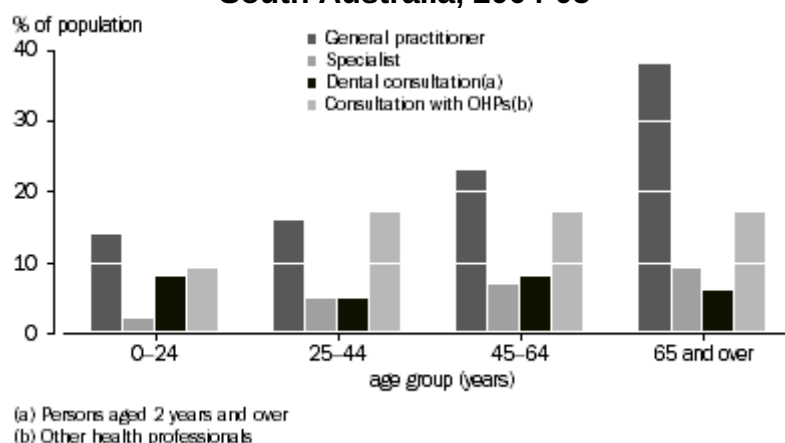
HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS

National Health Surveys have collected information about actions people have recently taken for their health. Actions covered included hospital stays, consultations with health professionals, days away from work, private health insurance cover, hysterectomies and hormone replacement therapy. The following information about health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview.

In 2004-05 one fifth (20%) of the South Australian population living in private dwellings consulted a general practitioner (GP), 5% consulted a specialist, 7% consulted a dentist and 14% consulted other health professionals (OHPs). Other health professionals included chemists (consulted by 3% of the South Australian population), chiropractors (3%), physiotherapists and hydrotherapists (3%) and nurses (1%).

The following graph shows that older people were more likely to visit GPs and specialists; however, the percentages of persons consulting OHPs in the age groups of 25-44 years, 45-64 years and 65 years and over were the same at 17%.

CONSULTATIONS WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONALS BY AGE GROUP, South Australia, 2004-05



Source: [National Health Survey, Summary of Results: State Tables, 2004-05](#) (cat. no. 4362.0)

In 2004-05, South Australians in households in the lowest household income quintile were twice as likely to consult a GP or specialist than those in the highest household income quintile (34% of persons compared with 17% of persons). However, the differences for consultations with dentists (6% of persons aged 2 years and over in the lowest household income quintile compared with 7% in the highest quintile) and with OHPs (17% of persons in the lowest household income quintile compared with 15% in the highest quintile) were not statistically significant.

Similar to SA, one-fifth (20%) of the Australian population consulted a GP. In the other states and the ACT, consultations with a GP ranged from 17% in the ACT to 21% in Tasmania. The differences between the other states, the ACT and Australia were small for other consultations: of the other states and the ACT populations, consultations with a specialist ranged from 5% to 6%, consultations with a dentist ranged from 5% to 7% (of persons aged 2 years and over) and consultations with OHPs ranged from 12% to 14%.

In both 2001 and 2004-05, 1% of South Australians living in private dwellings had been discharged from a stay in hospital, 1% had visited a casualty or emergency unit at a hospital and 2% had visited a day clinic. These percentages were the same at the national level. For both surveys, 3% of South Australians visited an outpatients department, this was statistically significantly higher than the national proportion of 2%.

DAYS AWAY FROM WORK

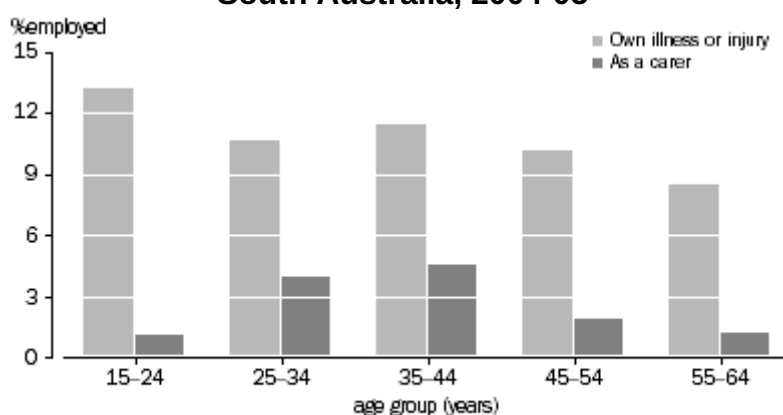
In 2004-05, of the employed South Australians aged 15-64 years, 11% reported that they had one or more days away from work in the previous two weeks due to their own illness or

injury. This was not statistically significantly higher than the 10% of employed Australians aged 15-64 years. The percentage of employed persons who had days away from work to care for another person who was ill in the previous two weeks was 3% in South Australia, which was statistically significantly lower than the national percentage of 4%.

In SA, a higher percentage of women had days away from work due to their own illness or injury (13%) compared with men (9%).

The following graph shows that employed South Australians in the 25-34 and 35-44 year age groups had higher percentages of persons reporting days off to care for another person who was ill than those in the 15-24, 45-54 and 55-64 year age groups. On the face of it, the graph below appears to show a large difference when comparing the proportion of 15-24 year olds who had days away from work for their own illness or injury, with the proportion for 55-64 year olds. This difference, however, is not statistically significant given the design of the survey.

EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO HAD DAYS AWAY FROM WORK(a), South Australia, 2004-05



(a) Days away from work in the two weeks prior to interview

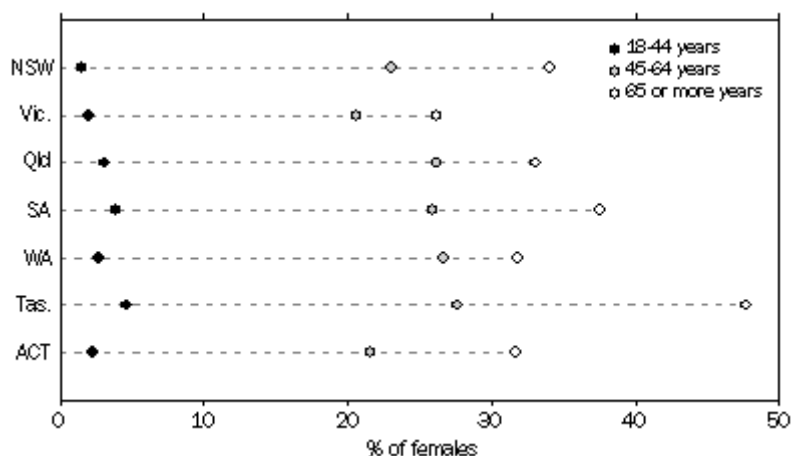
Source: [National Health Survey, Summary of Results: State Tables, 2004-05](#) (cat. no. 4362.0)

WOMEN'S HEALTH

In 2004-05, 18% of South Australian women aged 18 years or more reported that they had had a hysterectomy, which was statistically significantly above the national percentage of 14%. Only Tasmania had a higher rate of hysterectomies than SA at 21%; the other states and the ACT had rates ranging from 12% to 15%.

The following graph shows that SA and Tasmania had higher rates of hysterectomy recorded for women aged 65 years or more but there were smaller differences in rates of hysterectomy for women in the younger age groups.

WOMEN AGED 18 YEARS OR MORE WHO HAVE HAD HYSTERECTOMIES, 2004-05



Source: National Health Survey, Summary of Results: State Tables, 2004-05 (cat. no.4362.0)

In 2004-05, one-fifth (20%) of South Australian women aged 45-64 years were currently using hormone replacement therapy (HRT) which had been prescribed by a doctor. This is statistically significantly higher than the Australian percentage of 13%. Use of HRT by women aged 45-64 years in the other states and the ACT ranged from 10% in Victoria to 18% in the ACT.

Use of HRT by women aged 65 years and over was 10% in SA compared with 8% in Australia.

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

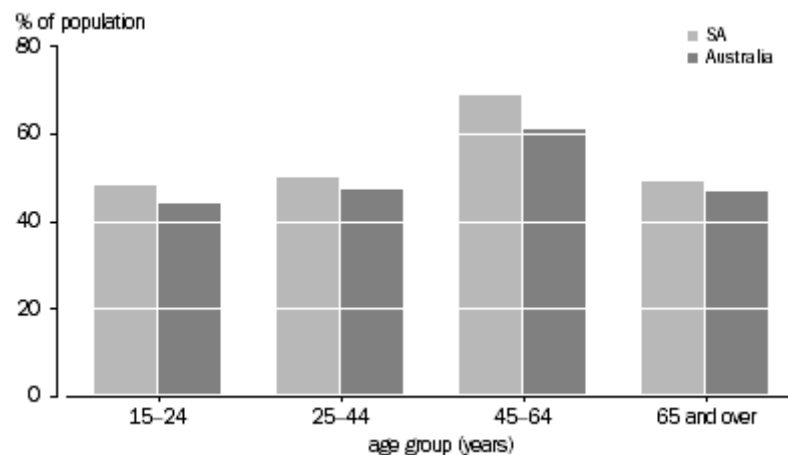
In 2004-05, 55% of South Australians aged 15 years and over had private health insurance. This was statistically significantly higher than the national rate of cover of 51%. Cover in the other states and the ACT ranged from 47% in Queensland to 60% in the ACT.

In SA, 44% of the population had both hospital and ancillary cover, 5% had hospital cover only and 6% had ancillary cover only.

Across all states and the ACT, persons aged 45-64 years had the highest rates of private health insurance. In SA, 69% of this age group had cover, statistically significantly higher than the national rate of 61%.

The following graph shows that the 15-24, 25-44 and 65 years and over age groups in SA had cover rates of 48% to 50%, all of which are slightly (but not statistically significantly) higher than the comparative national rates.

PERSONS WITH PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE BY AGE GROUP, South Australia and Australia, 2004-05



Source: [National Health Survey, Summary of Results: State Tables, 2004-05](#) (cat. no.4362.0)

'Security, protection or peace of mind' was the most common group of reasons for having private health insurance (43% of those insured in SA and 42% in Australia) followed by 'shorter wait for treatment or concern over public hospital waiting lists' (24% in SA, 23% in Australia). 'Cannot afford it or too expensive' was the most common group of reasons for not insuring (66% of those without private health insurance in SA and 64% in Australia).

In SA, proportionally fewer persons whose main language spoken at home was not English had cover (27%) than those whose main language at home was English (57%). Persons in households in the lowest household income quintile were less likely to have private health insurance (32% of persons) than those in the highest household income quintile (84% of persons).

REFERENCES

[National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2004-05](#) (cat. no. 4364.0)

[National Health Survey, Summary of Results: State Tables, 2004-05](#) (cat. no. 4362.0)

The companion data to [National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2001](#) (cat. no. 4364.0).

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	International Students in South Australia
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Explanatory Notes

Glossary

Consumption

Expenditure on final goods and services which satisfy immediate wants and do not re-enter the productive process.

Population

In the context of a collection, the term 'population' can be used to mean either the 'target population' or 'survey population' of a collection, although once a collection is underway it usually refers to the survey population. In the context of ABSDB datasets, the population refers to the actual set of (analysis) units objects of interest which are presented in the dataset about which information can be inferred in relation to the dataset.

Trend estimate

The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates are derived by applying a weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. These trend series are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of the series over time. While this smoothing technique enables estimates of trend to be produced for the current period, it does result in revisions to the estimates as data for subsequent periods become available. Generally subsequent revisions become smaller.